

Butterflies in Northern Greece: June-July 1976

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In early May 1969 and in mid-July 1971 we collected in several areas in Northern Greece (Dacie, J. V. and M. K. V. and Grammaticos, 1970, 1972); in late June and early July 1976 we revisited the area, the fauna of which seems to be less well known than that of Central and Southern Greece. Based on Thessaloniki, we collected on the 26th and 27th June in the vicinity of the town and, further afield, on Mt. Cholomon in the Chalcidiki Peninsula on the 23rd and 24th June and on the 9th and 10th July. We visited the hills towards the border with Bulgaria which are north of Kilkis, Serre and Drama on the 25th, 28th, 29th and 30th June, and between the 3rd and 7th July the mountainous country near Florina, Lake Prespa and Kastoria in the North-West corner of Greece, close to the borders of Albania and Yugoslavia. 117 species were identified, making a total of about 130 species for the area if species caught on the two previous occasions, but not seen in 1976, are included.

In this account we shall comment on selected species, i.e. species not previously caught by us in the area and some of special interest.

Papilionidae

Allancastris cerisyi ferdinandi Stichel. We revisited the locality near Drama where we had seen a few specimens of this species in mid-July in 1971 and found it to be (19 days earlier) abundant. Almost all were males, mostly in fine condition. We did not see the species elsewhere.

Parnassius mnemosyne L. This species was taken on two mountains near Florina and Kastoria, at approximately 1,500 m. and 1,900 m., respectively. They lacked completely, or showed only the slightest trace of, the white spots on the grey marginal border of the uppersides of the forewings which occur in *P. mnemosyne athene* Stichel, as found on Mt. Chelmos in S. Greece.

Nymphalidae

Neptis sappho Pallas. Two rather worn specimens were taken on the 30th June about 10 km. north of Drama. This is well below the southern limit for this species according to Higgins and Riley (1970), who mention Hungary, N. Yugoslavia and Rumania, but not Bulgaria or Greece, as countries in E. Europe in which it may be found.

Nymphalis polychloros L. We found this species in small numbers in almost all the areas we visited; it is clearly widespread and not rare in N. Greece.

Fabriciana adippe cleodoxa Ochs. This species was caught in one area only, near Florina: it appeared to be the most local of the large fritillaries.

Brenthis hecate D. & S. This species is relatively uncommon but was caught on Mt. Cholomon, near Drama and in

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the Florina-Kastoria area and is presumably widely distributed.

Boloria graeca graeca Staud. This species was taken, flying with *P. mnemosyne*, near Florina and Kastoria. It appears to be indistinguishable from the race flying in the classic locality of Mt. Tymphrystos.

Melitaea arduinna rhodopensis Freyer. This species was taken near Florina and also approximately 30 km. south of Florina on the road connecting Kastoria and Amynteon. *M. arduinna*, hitherto unknown apparently in Greece, was reported by Koutsaftikis (1974) as occurring near Ioannina; it presumably is local but widespread in N.W. Greece.

Euphydryas aurinia Rott. Koutsaftikis (1974) reported that this species had been taken at Florina, Drama, Evros and Ioannina. We encountered a single large colony at about 1,900 m., near Kastoria. It, too, thus seems likely to be widely distributed, although local, in N. Greece.

Satyridae

Hipparchia alcyone syriaca D. & S. This species was seen in only one locality, between Edessa and Florina, at exactly the same place where we found it in 1971. It thus seems to be local in N. Greece.

Hipparchia delattini Kudrna. This species, identified by its genitalia (Kudrna, 1975), was found to be abundant on an arid and stony upland area between Florina and Edessa. We had visited the area in 1971 and had caught several specimens on the same terrain. They had been reported erroneously as *H. semele* L. Other *Hipparchia*, caught near Kilgis, Serre and Drama were identified by examination of male genitalia, as *H. algerica senthes* Fruhst.

Pseudochazara anthelea amalthea Frivaldsky. Worn specimens of this species were caught flying in the same area as *H. delattini*, and other specimens were seen near Lake Prespa in the extreme N.W. corner of Greece.

Erebia medusa D. & S. This species seems to be widely distributed on the mountains near Florina and Kastoria. We did not see *E. ligea* L., which we had caught in 1971 near Florina a few days earlier in the year.

Aphantopus hyperantus L. We took this species near Florina and also near Drama, in a locality different from that at which we had taken it in 1971. Colonies are presumably widespread, but localised in N. Greece.

Lycaenidae

Quercusia quercus L. A single specimen was taken north of Serre. We had found the species near Volos in 1971, but not then in N. Greece.

Nordmannia acaciae F. This species was common on Mt. Cholomon, although mostly worn, and we took a single specimen near Drama.

Thersamonia thersamon Esper. This species seems to be very local in N. Greece. We saw a few specimens only at two localities near Thessaloniki.

Palaeochrysophanus hippothoe leonhardi Fruhst. This species was found sparingly in two localities near Florina and Kastoria, respectively.

Everes decoloratus Staud. Worn specimens of this species were found in exactly the same locality, near Drama, at which we had taken it in 1971. We did not find it elsewhere.

Cupido osiris Meigen. We took this species quite commonly near Serre, and a few specimens were caught near Drama and also near Florina; it is presumably widespread.

Maculinea arion L. As in 1971, this species is common on Mt. Cholomon. We did not see it near Florina where we had found it in 1971, but we found a few specimens in a mountainous locality near Kastoria. From both localities the majority of the specimens are large, have wide dark borders and are heavily marked.

Philotes baton schiffermuelleri Hemming. A few specimens of this species were caught near Drama and near Lake Prespa. It was common on the stony upland area between Florina and Edessa where *H. delattini* was flying.

Freyeria trochylus Freyer. Two fresh specimens were caught between Florina and Edessa, near Lake Vegorititis.

Plebejus argus L. This species (identified by the presence of a spine on the tibia of its fore-legs and by the bluish tint to the ground-colour of the underside) seems to be common and widespread in N. Greece. It is often unusually large and approaches *L. idas* in size. We found it on Mt. Cholomon and near Kilkis, Serre and Florina.

Lycaeides idas L. This species (identified by the absence of a spine on the tibia of its fore-legs and no bluish tint to the underside ground-colour) was found commonly near Drama, and we took a single large specimen near Kastoria.

Eumedonia eumedon Esper. A few rather worn specimens of this species were caught at about 1,900 m. near Kastoria. We did not see it elsewhere.

Aricia anteros Freyer. A single specimen was caught near Florina, near where we had seen the species in 1971, and a few were taken, along with the *E. eumedon*, near Kastoria.

Agrodiaetus admetus Esper. A single specimen was taken near Drama, where we had found the species to be abundant in 1971; several specimens were also caught near Lake Prespa, near Florina.

Agrodiaetus ripartii Freyer. In our 1972 account we reported the capture of this species. Re-examination shows that the specimens caught near Florina are *A. ripartii*, but those caught near Drama are *A. alcestis aroaniensis* (see Brown, 1976). Neither species was seen in 1976, although we revisited the exact locality near Drama where *A. a. aroaniensis* had been flying abundantly in 1971. However, in 1976 we visited the locality 19 days earlier in the year.

Plebicula dorylas D. & S. A few specimens of this species were seen near Drama and also near Lake Prespa.

Polyommatus eroides Frivaldsky. In 1971 we took three males of this species near Florina. In 1976 we did not find it at Florina but came across it flying in abundance on the mountain site near Kastoria at approximately 1,900 m. The majority of specimens were males in almost perfect condition;

a few females were, however, seen. Koutsaftikis (1974) reported finding this species at 950 m. near Drama; we did not find it where we collected.

Hesperiidae

Pyrgus malvae L. This species seems to be widespread and we noted it on Mt. Cholomon, near Kilkis, near Florina and near Kastoria.

Pyrgus serratulae major Staud. A few specimens of this large subspecies were taken near Florina and near Kastoria.

Pyrgus cinarae Rambur. Two fine fresh males were taken, near Drama and near Lake Prespa. The species may thus be widely distributed in N. Greece but it seems to be rare.

Pyrgus sidae Esper. This species is clearly widely distributed and we came across it in small numbers in five widely separated localities, on Mt. Cholomon, near Kilkis, near Serre, near Drama and near Florina.

Spialia phlomidis Herrich-Schaeffer. We found a few fresh specimens of this species in two localities in N.W. Greece, between Edessa and Florina and near Lake Prespa.

Syrichtus tessellum Hübner. This large and distinctive species appeared to be quite widely distributed on Mt. Cholomon but uncommon. We did not see it elsewhere.

Carcharodus lavatherae Esper. We reported previously finding three females of this species near Florina and near Drama in 1971. In 1976 we again found a few specimens of both sexes, in two localities near Drama. We did not see it further west.

Carcharodus flocciferus Zeller. We caught two specimens only of this species, near Kilkis and near Florina. It thus appears to be quite widely distributed in N. Greece but it is clearly uncommon.

Thymelicus lineola Ochs. In 1971 we found this species near Florina. In 1976 we found a further colony between Lake Prespa and Kastoria. We did not notice it elsewhere; it is clearly much less common and far less widely distributed than is *T. sylvestris* Poda which we noted practically everywhere we collected.

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